

Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky

Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Whitfield

Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—22

Brady (PA)
Broun (GA)
Cole
Collins (GA)
Deutch
Doyle
Gingrey (GA)
Graves (GA)

Hunter
Johnson (GA)
Kingston
Labrador
Lummis
Marchant
McCollum
Miller, Gary

Rush
Schwartz
Shuster
Slaughter
Thompson (MS)
Westmoreland

□ 1826

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STOP ADVERTISING VICTIMS OF EXPLOITATION ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4225) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a penalty for knowingly selling advertising that offers certain commercial sex acts, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 392, nays 19, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 222]

YEAS—392

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishke
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)

Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Coffman

Cohen
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett

Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Elmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)

Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebback
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascarelli
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)

Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman

Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Conyers
Davis, Danny
Edwards
Ellison
Fudge

Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho

NAYS—19

Holt
Lee (CA)
Lewis
Massie
Moore
Pocan
Schakowsky

NOT VOTING—20

Brady (PA)
Broun (GA)
Cole
Collins (GA)
Deutch
Doyle
Gingrey (GA)

Johnson (GA)
Kingston
Labrador
Marchant
McCollum
Miller, Gary
Rush

Schwartz
Shuster
Slaughter
Thompson (MS)
Walberg
Westmoreland

□ 1835

Messrs. HOLT and DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3717

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3717.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

CONDEMNING THE ABDUCTION OF FEMALE STUDENTS BY BOKO HARAM

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 573) condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the terrorist group known as Boko Haram in northeastern provinces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 573

Whereas, on the night of April 14, 2014, 276 female students, most of them between 15 and 18 years old, were abducted by Boko Haram from the Government Girls Secondary School, a boarding school located in the northeastern province of Borno in the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Whereas, all public secondary schools in Borno state were closed in March 2014 because of increasing attacks in the past year that have killed hundreds of students, but the young women at the Government Girls Secondary School were recalled to take their final exams;

Whereas, Boko Haram burned down several buildings before opening fire on soldiers and police who were guarding the Government Girls Secondary School and forcing the students into trucks;

Whereas, according to local officials in Borno state, 53 students were able to flee their captors, and the rest remain abducted;

Whereas, there are reports that the abducted girls have been sold as brides to Islamist militants for the equivalent of \$12 each;

Whereas, the group popularly known as “Boko Haram”, which loosely translates from the Hausa language to “Western education is sin”, is known to oppose the education of girls;

Whereas, on April 14, 2014, hours before the kidnapping in Borno state, and on May 2, 2014, Boko Haram bombed bus stations in Abuja, Nigeria, killing at least 94 people and wounding over 160, making it the deadliest set of attacks ever in Nigeria’s capital;

Whereas, Boko Haram has kidnapped girls in the past to use as cooks and sex slaves, and has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping in Borno state on April 14, 2014;

Whereas, late May 5, 2014, suspected Boko Haram gunmen kidnapped an additional 8 girls, ranging in age from 12 to 15, from a village in northeast Nigeria;

Whereas, reports estimate that more than 500 students and 100 teachers have been killed by Boko Haram and have destroyed roughly 500 schools in northern Nigeria, leaving more than 15,000 students without access to education;

Whereas, Boko Haram has targeted schools, mosques, churches, villages, and agricultural centers, as well as government facilities, in an armed campaign to create an Islamic state in northern Nigeria, prompting the President of Nigeria to declare a state of emergency in three of the country’s northeastern states in May 2013;

Whereas, human rights groups have indicated that the Nigerian state security forces should improve efforts to protect civilians during offensive operations against Boko Haram;

Whereas, according to nongovernmental organizations, more than 1,500 people have been killed in attacks by Boko Haram or reprisals by Nigerian security forces this year alone, and that almost 4,000 people have been killed in Boko Haram attacks since 2011;

Whereas, the enrollment, retention, and completion of education for girls in Nigeria remains a major challenge;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), some 4,700,000 children of primary school age are still not in school in Nigeria, with attendance rates lowest in the north;

Whereas, studies have found that school children in Nigeria, particularly those in the northern provinces, are at a disadvantage in their education, with 37 percent of primary-age girls in the rural northeast not attending school, and 30 percent of boys not attending school;

Whereas, women and girls must be allowed to go to school without fear of violence and unjust treatment so that they can take their rightful place as equal citizens of and contributors to society;

Whereas United States security assistance to Nigeria has emphasized military professionalization, peacekeeping support and training, and border and maritime security;

Whereas, the Department of State designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in November 2013, recognizing the threat posed by the group’s large-scale and indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including women and children;

Whereas Boko Haram is one of a number of radical Islamist terrorist organizations and extremist groups that pose a growing threat to United States’ interests in the region as well as broader peace and security; and

Whereas these radical Islamist groups, which include Ansar al-Sharia, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, The National Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa, and

others have carried out deadly attacks in the region and constitute a growing threat to North and West Africa: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its strong support for the people of Nigeria, especially the parents and families of the girls abducted by Boko Haram in Borno state, and calls for the immediate, safe return of the girls;

(2) condemns Boko Haram for its violent attacks on civilian targets, including schools, mosques, churches, villages, and agricultural centers in Nigeria;

(3) encourages the Government of Nigeria to strengthen efforts to protect children seeking to obtain an education and to hold those who conduct such violent attacks accountable;

(4) commends efforts by the United States Government to hold terrorist organizations, such as Boko Haram, accountable;

(5) supports offers of United States assistance to the government of Nigeria in the search for these abducted girls and encourages the government of Nigeria to work with the United States and other concerned governments to resolve this tragic situation;

(6) recognizes that every individual, regardless of gender, should have the opportunity to pursue an education without fear of discrimination;

(7) encourages the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to continue their support for initiatives that promote the human rights of women and girls in Nigeria;

(8) urges the President to immediately strengthen United States security, law enforcement, and intelligence cooperation with appropriate Nigerian forces, including offering United States personnel to support operations to locate and rescue the more than 200 schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram, and to support Nigerian efforts to counter this United States designated foreign terrorist organization; and

(9) calls on the President to provide to Congress a comprehensive strategy to counter the growing threat posed by radical Islamist terrorist groups in West Africa, the Sahel, and North Africa.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, the world is now fully aware of the absolute terror of Boko Haram. Over the last few months, there have been over 500 schools burned to the ground by Boko Haram.

Struck by the brazen abduction of nearly 300 innocent schoolgirls, people are now asking, “What is Boko Haram?” Sadly, for the communities in northern Nigeria, they know the answer to that. They know what Boko

Haram means to them. They know that the definition of “Boko Haram” is “Western education is a sin,” and they know that, for this particular organization, of particularly great importance is that young women not be educated.

Sadly, for the communities in northern Nigeria, they know that Boko Haram believes that you can kidnap women, you can sell young girls, you can treat them as chattel, and you can enslave them, but the one great sin is should you try to educate them, because should you try to educate them, you will meet the fate of over 100 teachers who have been slaughtered in northern Nigeria for trying to educate young women.

Boko Haram in total has killed some 4,000 individuals now. The communities in northern Nigeria live in constant fear, losing any normalcy of life. Most of the schools in whole regions have been shut down. Community centers, farms, and businesses have been boarded up and closed.

Even with the recent focus on rescuing these young women, Boko Haram has been able to continue its reign of terror. Its militants have relatively sophisticated weapons, they have ample funds, and they have advanced training. This group is the vanguard of a foreign-backed move to transform and radicalize Nigerian society, as many Nigerians have told me in the country.

Since the abduction of these 300 students, more girls have been kidnapped, and more Nigerian security units have been attacked. This group, my friends, is not going away.

Boko Haram lives up to its name. They have killed, as I say, over 100 teachers, but over 500 students. They have denied tens of thousands of young Nigerians an education, but they have a very alternative framework for education—or indoctrination—that they intend to supplant. Despite knowing the dangers, these young women were committed to their education, the ones that were abducted.

This resolution importantly puts the House on record saying that we are committed to getting them freed. The resolution supports U.S. assistance to the Nigerian Government in trying to rescue these girls and calls for a more active U.S. role. Tomorrow, we will hear from a young woman who herself was kidnapped by Boko Haram and escaped.

It is clear that the Nigerian security forces are facing an uphill battle in the fight against Boko Haram. Some of these problems are internal—some unprofessional and corrupt units that are poorly equipped and poorly trained. That has led some to say that we should not be involved. But, Mr. Speaker, it tells me that U.S. involvement is critical. Without U.S. expertise, including intelligence sharing, it is clear that the threat from the U.S.-designated terrorist group will grow, these girls will suffer, others girls will suffer, and the region will be destabilized.

U.S. forces are well positioned to advise and assist. They can advise and assist Nigerian forces in the search and rescue of these girls. In this role, U.S. forces—expertly trained to deal with hostage situations and trained in jungle environments—could help Nigerians with intelligence planning and logistics up until the point the operation is launched. And if some U.S. laws would hinder such assistance, the administration should use its waiver authority under these extraordinary circumstances.

An advise-and-assist operation would have the benefit of boosting morale and effectiveness of the Nigerian forces. It would ensure expert planning, and it would ensure the best chance of success of rescue. This isn't dissimilar to the operation against the Lord's Resistance Army in eastern Africa, where U.S. forces have been embedded with local units, training and constraining Joseph Kony, and it has been used in the past to eliminate al Qaeda-linked terrorists in North Africa.

While these girls are foremost in our mind, there are larger considerations too.

□ 1845

Indeed, commanders at the Pentagon have stated that Boko Haram is a threat to Western interests, and one of the highest counterterrorism priorities in Africa, they tell us; and that is especially the case, given Nigeria's position as the continent's most populous country and biggest economy.

This resolution is a show of solidarity with these young kidnapped girls, with their families, and with the communities in northern Nigeria who have lived under constant fear of Boko Haram for far too long.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H. Res. 573.

I would like to begin by thanking our former committee colleague and our colleague, Ms. FREDERICA WILSON of Florida, for offering this important resolution. I would also like to thank our chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ROYCE, for working with us on this piece of legislation in a bipartisan manner.

This resolution strongly condemns the abduction of nearly 300 schoolgirls by the Nigerian terrorist group Boko Haram and supports U.S. and international efforts to assist in their recovery.

On April 14, these schoolgirls were doing what young women and girls all over the world do every day, studying for tests, playing with friends, and building a future for themselves.

That day, Boko Haram—which roughly translates to “Western education is forbidden”—abducted these girls, tore them away from their families and their communities. Today, more than a month later, we still don't know where they are. Our thoughts are with their families, and we pray that

they are safely reunited with their children as soon as possible.

This mass abduction is only the latest atrocity committed by Boko Haram. Since 2010, they have launched hundreds of attacks and murdered over 5,000 people. The group has burned schools and killed students, attacked churches and mosques, murdered Christian and Muslim religious leaders, and set off bombs in the capital city of Abuja.

The United States and other international partners have offered assistance to bring the schoolgirls home, and we all hope these efforts will prove successful, but we must also recognize that Nigeria's approach to countering Boko Haram has not been effective. With its heavy-handed approach, the Nigerian military has often alienated the very population that could be providing valuable information about Boko Haram's activities.

Instead of fostering relationships with the community, the military has built a record of indiscriminate destruction, theft of personal property, arbitrary arrests, indefinite detention, torture, and extrajudicial killing of civilians—all this with impunity. This serves only to help Boko Haram recruit and radicalize new members.

I hope the Nigerian Government will see this kidnapping and the reaction of Nigerian citizens as a wake-up call to reevaluate their counterterrorism strategy and that we can work with them to develop a comprehensive strategy to combat Boko Haram, one that included civil society, development, and better civil-military relations.

Meanwhile, we in the United States must do all we can to ensure that these girls are returned home to their families safely and soundly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organization.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROYCE for swiftly bringing this important resolution, H. Res. 573, to the floor. I thank Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON for her sponsorship and also ELIOT ENGEL for the bipartisanship that has been exhibited on behalf of this very, very important and timely resolution.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 2 months ago, a large group of uniformed men, Boko Haram terrorists, kidnapped nearly 300 schoolgirls from the Chibok Government Girls Secondary School. This case has recently caught the attention of the international community, and people worldwide are now—and belatedly, I would suggest—calling for swift action to recover these innocent young women.

Unfortunately—and perversely—Boko Haram now basks in its inter-

national attention and continues to release videos to demonstrate the leverage they believe they have gained by this and other kidnappings. Meanwhile, boys caught by these terrorists are not kidnapped; they are summarily executed. Fifty-nine of them were killed in one school alone in Borno State just this past February.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nigeria continues to be slow to react to this outrageous situation, even after accepting much-needed international security assistance.

It is only since the uproar in Nigeria and outside the country that the Nigerian Government has asked for international assistance in addressing this situation. That request has triggered a U.S. interagency team consisting of personnel from the Departments of State, Defense, Justice, USAID, AFRICOM, and the FBI.

That team was led by AFRICOM commander General David Rodriguez and Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Sarah Sewall, who will testify tomorrow at Chairman ROYCE's hearing.

This enhanced engagement is welcomed in light of weak efforts by the Nigerian Government and a police-military-security apparatus that we have found to operate in a very divided manner and make enemies among the Nigerian public by their clumsy and sometimes brutal response to Boko Haram terrorist attacks.

Mr. Speaker, it is worth noting here that, for years, many of us—and this has been bipartisan—have been calling on the Obama administration to declare Boko Haram a foreign terrorist organization.

I held a hearing back in 2012 and asked, rather pointedly, of then-Assistant Secretary of State Johnnie Carson why Boko Haram was not so designated, particularly in light of the killings that occurred at the U.N. facility in Abuja. There were no good answers. We tried again. I finally went on a factfinding trip in September of last year.

We went to Jos, Greg Simpkins, my staff director and I, and met with people who were the survivors of firebombing attacks that occurred in their churches while they were at mass or at church service on Sunday. We heard harrowing tales.

We even brought one of the survivors, a man named Ikenna Nzeribe, who came and told how an AK-47 was put to his jaw. He was told: You either renounce your faith in your Jesus or you die. He said: I am ready to see my Lord.

The trigger was pulled, and he lost half of his face and was left for dead.

I say that because the brutality of this organization—which now has some 300 young, innocent women that are probably being raped and abused in so many ways—just underscores the need for concerted action, first and foremost, by Nigeria and, secondly, by a

full assist by the international communities.

Earlier today, five mutually reinforcing bills to combat human trafficking passed on this floor of the House of Representatives. This is another vivid, extraordinary, hard example of human trafficking, of stealing young girls right from their school, putting them in trucks, and then taking them into the bush where horrible things are being done to them.

We need to leave no stone unturned, and if that means lifting in the sense of only working with those troops that are human rights certified to assist the military of Nigeria, parts of the Leahy amendment may have to be waived, we have to provide that command and control and that ability for the Nigerian military to find and bring these young girls back to safety.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) be yielded the remainder of my time, and that he may control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding; and I thank my colleague from California, Mr. ROYCE, the chairman of the committee; and Mr. SMITH and others who have brought this resolution to the floor.

I am especially proud of the work of Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON, for her work on the resolution before the House to condemn the abduction of female students by armed militants. Thank you, Congresswoman WILSON.

We have been fortunate to have the leadership of our Congressional Black Caucus, led by Congresswoman FUDGE—who I see on the floor right now—Congressman KEITH ELLISON and Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, among others who have come and gone in the course of the debate.

We have called the Congressional Black Caucus the conscience of the Congress, helping to rally our Nation to the cause of these abducted girls and working to address the broader threat to women and girls in Africa and around the world.

I associate myself with some of the remarks of my colleague, Mr. SMITH, about the fact that so many bills today on the floor address human trafficking, the trafficking of children, that passed earlier, and Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE was very much a part of that.

I rise this evening, Mr. Speaker, in support of the resolution introduced by Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON and to stand in solidarity with the young Nigerian girls who are still held in captivity by Boko Haram.

Their kidnapping is outside the circle of civilized human behavior. It is a despicable and abhorrent crime that cries out for justice, nor is this the first time that Boko Haram has attacked young Nigerian students.

They have murdered dozens of young boys, shooting and burning more than 50 of them to death in their boarding school. Their assault on communities is an affront to the human rights of men, women, and children everywhere.

I think it is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that we have a moral responsibility to help, certainly to find and rescue these girls. We must not and will not rest until we bring them back; bring back our girls.

But when we bring them back, we have to bring them back without the taboo, without the stigma that they have been kidnapped and assumptions made about their treatment. Whatever that has been, I know that their families want to welcome them back with open arms, and we have to be a party to that.

The worst thing, the most cruel form of torture for someone who has been kidnapped, as Mr. SMITH knows as a champion for human rights throughout the world, is to tell those who are kidnapped or abducted or imprisoned that nobody really cares about them anymore, that nobody knows that they are kidnapped and nobody cares about them anymore.

In this case of these young girls, to also say because you have been kidnapped and certain assumptions have been made about your treatment, you will no longer be welcomed home, even if you are freed, that is vicious. That is vicious, and I know it is a view not shared by the families of these girls and should not be shared by anyone.

As the resolution states, women and girls must be allowed to go to school without fear of violence and unjust treatment, so they can take their rightful place as equal citizens and contributors to society.

It is an outrage that women and girls in any part of the world face this kind of intimidation simply for seeking an education. It is an outrage that human trafficking continues to threaten communities anywhere, and I thank all of my colleagues, again, for the participation and the long debate about trafficking that preceded this debate now.

Today, we join together to say to those girls in captivity in Nigeria and around the world that we will not abandon you. We will stand up for you until justice is done. The thoughts and prayers of the world are with them, their families, and their communities.

As I have said, the capture and captivity of these girls challenges the conscience of the world in a very specific and different way, and perhaps that difference will make a difference in how we deal with it.

Again, I thank our colleagues for bringing this resolution to the floor. I commend Congresswoman WILSON for her leadership.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON), the author of this resolution.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Thank you, Congressman ENGEL. I would like to thank the leadership of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the original co-sponsors of this bipartisan legislation, Congressman ENGEL, Congressman ROYCE, Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN, Congressman SMITH, Congresswoman BASS, and the support of Leader PELOSI.

□ 1900

I stand here today on the House floor demanding that we “bring back our girls.” I am outraged and heartbroken over the kidnapping of hundreds of female students in Nigeria by the terrorist group Boko Haram.

These girls have now been away from their home for more than a month. I cannot even begin to imagine what this is like for these girls, for their mothers, their fathers, their brothers, their entire village. We must end this nightmare.

The abduction of these girls was committed to keep them from getting an education. The girls knew the dangers they might encounter. Their school had previously been closed due to terrorist attacks, but they went to school anyway. They went because they were determined to get an education, determined to build a better life for themselves and for their families.

Women and girls have the right to go to school without fear of violence and unjust treatment. I believe that we must do everything in our power, Mr. Speaker, to ensure the safe return of these precious young girls. That is why I introduced H. Res. 573, to send a clear message to Nigeria and to the international community: women around the world have the right to be free and live without fear. Women should not be forced to risk their lives to get an education they want and deserve.

H. Res. 573 puts the U.S. House of Representatives firmly on record condemning the atrocious attack and Boko Haram’s violent attacks on civilian targets in Nigeria.

H. Res. 573 seeks to hold those who conduct violent attacks accountable.

H. Res. 573 reaffirms our support for the assistance that the President and the administration is providing to help Nigerians find the girls and calls for the development of a comprehensive strategy to counter the threat of radical terrorist groups like Boko Haram.

H. Res. 573 calls for the safe return of these girls to an environment that protects children seeking to obtain an education.

In these girls, I see our daughters, our sisters, our nieces. I see their hopes and their dreams. These girls are strong, determined, courageous, and understand the value of an education.

As a past principal, I understand, and we must support them. We know that girls who are educated make higher wages, lead healthier lives, and have healthier families. Education is truly a girl's best chance for a brighter future, not just for herself, but for her family and her nation.

I have a large constituency of Nigerians in my district. On Saturday, I participated in a rally to encourage Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan to do more to find the girls. My constituents were calling him "Badluck Jonathan" in their frustration because he is not doing enough to find these girls. "Badluck Jonathan is not doing enough" was the call and the rallying cry at the rally.

I walked away from the rally with this shirt that reads, "Nigeria," and I walked away with my heart still full of worry, still full of concern, and I am puzzled. Are they hungry? Are they sheltered? Can they shower? Can they take care of their womanly needs? Have they been raped? Have they been beaten? Have they been sold? Are they still even alive?

God of our weary years. God of our silent tears. We are reliving the past. The past of the slave trade. The past of the torture and suffering that we endured as slaves. We should never, never relive the indignities of the past.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all Members to maintain proper decorum in the Chamber.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL).

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Mr. ENGEL, thank you and Congresswoman WILSON for bringing this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, what we have seen take place in Nigeria, the crimes perpetrated by Boko Haram, is simply unthinkable and appalling.

There are some crimes against humanity that should not be tolerated regardless of where they occur in the world. The violent kidnapping of over 250 girls for the sole reason that they were seeking an education is one such crime, innocent girls who should be carefree but instead are prisoners enduring the unimaginable. In the 21st century, we cannot let this kind of horror against children go unanswered.

First, I want to thank President Obama for sending a multidisciplinary team to Nigeria where they are working with the United Kingdom, France, and Israel to help resolve this crisis.

I am proud to support this resolution condemning Boko Haram and calling for continued United States support to return these girls safely to their families and bring these terrorists to justice.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his extraordinary leadership on this issue and so many others.

Great appreciation to the sponsor of this, my good friend FREDERICA WILSON, who spoke with great feeling on the floor. We appreciate so much your leadership in this area and other areas.

These young girls in Nigeria were kidnapped from their school in the middle of the night, terrorized and held captive, and may now be sold like so many inanimate objects into a lifetime of forcible rape. There is no kind of crime more appalling, no offense or worse, no act of depravity more harmful to the community of nations than this kind of barbarism.

As horrible as this crime is, this represents only a small fraction of the global trafficking in human beings. Just today, a report by the U.N. noted that trafficking, forced labor, and modern slavery are big businesses generating profits estimated at \$150 billion a year. It is a global enterprise that we must put out of business.

They committed this terrible act in part because they wanted to send a message. Well, let's send one back to them today, a message that the nations of the West will spare no effort, no expense in helping to return these girls safely to their families. We will pursue the perpetrators of this atrocity by every legal and lawful means to the ends of this Earth or until the end of their days.

Let us declare that the children of this world here at home or in some far-flung corner of the world are not for sale. They are not to be used as slaves or as shields or as barter. All those who attempt to profit off this ancient evil will be considered the common enemies of humanity.

My time is up.

We will not stop until these girls are returned to their homes.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, allow me to thank the gentleman for the time. I thank my dear friend FREDERICA WILSON from Florida for bringing forth this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, a number of people across the country who are of the Muslim faith contacted me and Congressman CARSON, who happen to be the two Members of that faith in this body, and expressed to us how outraged and offended they were by the actions of Boko Haram. What we did is said, well, you guys write a letter and we will draft it; we will get a lot of signatures on it, and we will send it to Nigeria. And that is what we have done.

It is written in English and in the Arabic language, and we are trying to get

it translated into Hausa right now. It has well over 30 leaders in the community. It just reads a little bit this way. I doubt I will have the time to read the entire letter, but it reads:

We urge to you immediately release the young children you have unconscionably taken. Your actions have shocked Muslims across the United States and the world and have disrespected our faith and the teachings of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon Him.)

Your justification for stealing these children—that education for girls goes against Islam—has no basis whatsoever in our faith. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon Him) wisely emphasized that every Muslim man and woman has a duty to seek education. You have truly strayed from the path when your actions betray its first command "Iqra," which means to read.

You do not represent Islam or what Muslims know to be the teachings of Islam. Your attempt to transform a central tenet of Islam into a vile lie used to kill and maim innocent Nigerians of all faiths is transparent.

You treat children like cattle. It is abhorrent and sinful to pretend to be a Prophet to whom Allah has spoken.

It goes on. The last sentence reads such as this:

If you would like to follow the teachings of Islam, listen to the global chorus.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. "If you would like to follow the teachings of Islam, listen to the global chorus of voices that are enjoining you to do what is right: return these children to their families and replace the evil in your heart with peace and learning."

It goes on to be signed by myself, Congressman CARSON, and many others.

We join our colleagues, both sides of the aisle, in the demand for the return of these precious children immediately.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, let me thank first of all my ranking member for yielding and for your leadership on so many issues, including this tragic issue that we are dealing with today, and also to Chairman ROYCE for continuing to ensure that these issues and these resolutions and bills continue to be bipartisan.

Also, I just have to thank my colleague Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON for your steady and tremendous and clear and passionate leadership. This is such an important issue that yourself, Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, and others continue to bring to the forefront, and I just have to say once again thank you for this.

This resolution puts the United States Congress on record expressing strong support for the people of Nigeria, especially the parents and families of the girls abducted by Boko Haram.

We join the international community in calling for the immediate and safe return of these innocent girls. The world is shouting, and we have seen this and heard this over and over again, "Bring back our girls."

These girls were pursuing their education. These are crimes against humanity and cannot be tolerated.

Nigeria, in partnership with the international community, must do everything it can to protect all children and men and women against such violent attacks. Since 2013, more than 4,400 men, women, and children have been slaughtered by Boko Haram. These are terrorists who have gotten away with murder. Enough is enough. We must do everything we can to bring our girls home and to bring an end to Boko Haram's reign of terror.

I want to commend and thank our administration for once again being on the right side of history. I think in this resolution, Congresswoman WILSON encourages and supports what has taken place now within our own executive branch, but we must do more. I believe both sides of the aisle have come together to support your legislation to say let's do more, let's bring our girls back, and let's bring this reign of terror by Boko Haram to an end.

□ 1915

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time both sides have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 9½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for his leadership, the chairman of the committee from California, and Mr. SMITH from New Jersey, who is managing the bill, and I thank very much the sponsor of this legislation, Ms. WILSON, who has brought us together around a very important statement. Members of the United States Congress will have the ability to stand and to take a very public view that the thugs of Boko Haram will no longer be able to run rampant without the attention of the United States and the people around the world.

I have, Mr. Speaker, the geographic area in which Nigeria is in, from Benin and Togo, to nearby Ghana and Niger, Chad, and Cameroon. We wonder where these girls are now. So it is very important that we are condemning this horrific act. We wonder where these children are.

We have used the term "girls" and we want to bring them home, but these are children who cannot consent to leaving home, to marrying, to changing their religion. So in one sweep we have sex traffic girls, we have violated religious freedom, and we have taken children away from the bosom of their family.

So as I hold up in my hand these names, many whom we should call—these are real people. I would ask today as we stand to support this resolution that we push for a relief fund for these girls, we push for Nigeria to establish its own special ops so that they can safely find these girls, and we tell the Islamic world, we tell al Qaeda in particular, to stop funding these groups. And we thank Mr. ELLISON.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. ENGEL. I yield an additional 10 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me also indicate that it is important for the United Nations peacekeepers and the African Union and others to realize this is a much larger issue. Today I stand on the floor of the House and condemn Boko Haram, but ask that these girls be rescued and brought home safely.

Mr. Speaker, as an original co-sponsor, a senior member of the Homeland Security and Judiciary Committees, and, most important, a mother, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 573, a resolution condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the terrorist group known as Boko Haram in northeastern provinces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I thank my colleague from Florida, Congresswoman WILSON, for introducing this bipartisan resolution and urge all Members to support it because it is important for the House to go on record in opposition to the brutal and outrageous assaults on human dignity and freedom committed by the Boko Haram, a militant group that has no respect for the rights of women and girls.

Since 2013, more than 4,400 men, women, and children have been slaughtered by Boko Haram.

The victims include Christians, Muslims, journalists, health care providers, relief workers. And schoolchildren.

I urge our government, the United States of America, to assist the Government of Nigeria in developing its own capacity to deploy specialized police and army units rapidly to bring Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau to justice and to rescue the more than 200 schoolgirls who were kidnapped from the Chibok School for Girls in Borno State on April 15, and the 11 schoolgirls kidnapped last night in the Warabe community of Borno, and reunited with their families and loved ones.

Boko Haram's reign of terror must be brought to an end.

I also call upon our government to work with the African Union and the international community to detect, disrupt, and dismantle Boko Haram's funding sources derived from other Islamist groups, including Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), the Al Muntada Trust Fund, and the Islamic World Society.

I commend President Obama on his decision to deploy American security experts and equipment in Nigeria to help locate and rescue the abducted schoolgirls and we applaud Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan for accepting that assistance.

The leader of Boko Haram has threatened to ransom or sell the abducted schoolgirls into the human trafficking market for about twelve dollars each (\$12.00 USD).

I say to him: "Don't you dare."

Boko Haram's outrageous conduct will not be tolerated or overlooked for not only is it a violation of the girls' human rights, it is also contrary to United States policy which supports and promotes equal access to education and economic opportunity for women and girls.

As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

So we will not stand idly by.

But we do stand in solidarity with the good people of Nigeria and especially those beautiful and courageous schoolgirls who wanted nothing more than to get an education to make life better for themselves and their beloved country.

We will not forget or forsake you.

This is what I think we should do.

First, since we know that terrorist groups cannot operate effectively without reliable and steady funding to support their criminal acts, the United States should work with the international community to detect, disrupt, and dismantle the funding networks financing Boko Haram.

Published reports in the media indicate that Boko Haram has received as much as \$70 million from other Islamist groups, including Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), the Al Muntada Trust Fund, and the Islamic World Society.

Second, as I mentioned, the United States should work with the Government of Nigeria to develop its own capacity to deploy specialized police and army units rapidly to prevent and combat sectarian violence in cities and around the country where there has been a history of sectarian violence.

The creation and deployment of an elite highly-trained rapid response unit was used to successful effect by the Indonesia Government in 2004 to neutralize the Laskar Jihad terrorist organization.

Third, the United States should also take appropriate action to help the Government of Nigeria establish a Victim's Fund to provide humanitarian relief and economic assistance to the victims of attacks by Boko Haram so that they can rebuild their lives and communities.

"People are the great issue of the 20th century," declared, then-Senator Hubert Humphrey in 1948.

Mr. Speaker, the well-being of people remains the great issue of the 21st century.

And there is no better measure of any society than the way it treats its women and girls.

Boko Haram understands that when Nigerian girls are educated, Nigerian women can succeed; and when Nigerian women succeed, Nigeria succeeds.

And that is why it is so important that the United States help Nigeria ensure that Boko Haram fails.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the record a copy of the May 8, 2014 letter to President Obama from myself and 15 Members of Congress commending his decision to deploy American security experts and equipment in Nigeria to help locate and rescue the kidnapped schoolgirls urging the Administration to work in concert with the Government of Nigeria and the African Union to bring Abubakar Shekau and other leaders of Boko Haram to justice.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I would like to once again thank Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON and Chairman ROYCE for helping to move this resolution forward in a timely manner. The Senate passed a similar resolution last week, and I am pleased that we will soon follow suit.

We must do all we can to hold Boko Haram accountable for the mass abduction of schoolgirls and the many other terrorist attacks it has committed.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families and friends of the abducted girls, and we will not rest until they are returned to their loved ones. We will do everything in our power to get them home safely and soundly.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say that we are really speaking with one voice tonight, and that is on behalf of the young women, the young girls, who have been abducted by Boko Haram. Thankfully, there is absolutely no divide between Republicans or Democrats, and really the world. The world is speaking out.

This is absolutely outrageous, but it is part of a trend and a surge that is happening in many parts of the world, including in Africa. Al-Shabaab in Somalia. We know the terrible killing spree that went on in Kenya, in Nairobi, not so long ago. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. Ansar-al-Dine and Mujao in Mali. And then, of course, Seleka in the Central African Republic. And then, of course, Boko Haram.

Number nine of the whereas be it resolved "calls on the President to provide Congress a comprehensive strategy to counter the growing threat posed by radical Islamist terrorist groups in West Africa, the Sahel, and North Africa."

They are bad, Mr. Speaker, and they are getting worse. Many of us have been calling in a bipartisan way for years that Boko Haram be designated a foreign terrorist organization, and it was belated. It took years to designate this organization, this cruel, insensitive, and murderous organization. Thankfully, at least now everyone gets it, but unfortunately there are many, many victims who are suffering.

The war on terrorism, Mr. Speaker, remains largely unfinished. My hope is that this resolution and the commitment of the U.S. Government, the French, and the European allies, and frankly people around the world, even the Chinese know because they were recently hit as well, will understand that Boko Haram has to be stopped. All means necessary have to be employed to mitigate—no, not mitigate—destroy this threat to children, to women.

Let's not forget: here is a group that targets schools, literally abducts children, kills the men, the boys, and abducts the young girls. Just in May and April they conducted the worst attack on bus stations throughout Abuja. The worst hit. It barely made the papers, Mr. Speaker.

Boko Haram is a murderous organization, and it is about time we all did our part to ensure that they end their reign of terror.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, which I am proud to cosponsor, and I thank the Gentlelady from Florida, Congresswoman WILSON, for spearheading this effort.

It has now been over a month since over 230 girls and young women were kidnapped from their school in northeastern Nigeria. Boko Haram, the terrorist organization that has been attempting to impose its extremist views onto millions of people in Nigeria and in neighboring Niger and Cameroon, is a dangerous and destabilizing force in West Africa.

This is a region where millions of people are trying hard to overcome poverty and where national and local governments are focused on creating opportunities that can expand a growing middle class—ingredients for peace, prosperity, and democracy.

The very name of Boko Haram means a rejection of secular education and the democratic values it teaches. The girls who were kidnapped—in an action that is nearly unthinkable to those of us here in America in 2014—are courageous individuals who dared to go to school and pursue opportunities that generations of girls and women before them never had.

Congress ought to condemn Boko Haram forcefully and send a clear message not only that the world cannot—and will not—accept its brand of violent extremism, but also that the American people stand in solidarity with all the girls and young women of West Africa who are bravely pursuing an education or yearning to do so. West Africa faces many challenges, and it's time to marshal the resources of the U.S. government and our allies to help address those challenges and to ensure that all the girls and young women who were abducted can return safely home.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill so we can bring our girls home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the resolution, H. Res. 573, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 685. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces,

collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare.

H.R. 1209. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the "Doolittle Tokyo Raiders", for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo.

H.R. 2939. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

H.R. 3658. An act to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 4435.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORBES). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 585 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4435.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1924

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Mr. STEWART in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

First, let me express my appreciation to Ranking Member SMITH for his leadership and friendship. He has been an invaluable partner in upholding our committee's focus on providing for our men and women in uniform. I would also like to thank our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee for